

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY~~COUNTRY East Germany NOFORN REPORTTOPIC Allstedt Airfield

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 23 September 1955 25X1REFERENCES PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) Exempt ~~as per~~ AtttoREMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

1. After clearing operations in the area of Allstedt airfield were completed and levelling of the very soft soil was to be started, sustained rainfalls began during the last part of June. The terrain became soaked and the concreting work was considerably delayed. In order to accelerate work, 160 prisoners from Bautzen and other East German prisons were employed at the field. These prisoners who were guarded by 46 guards, were quartered separately from the other construction workers and were assigned to a separate construction site. Only construction engineers were allowed to speak with these prisoners. The construction site was near the Allstedt - Querfurt highway, about 4 kilometers from Allstedt. Ing. Klingenberg was in charge of the construction site and Heinrich Sturm was in charge of the procurement of construction materials. The Soviet construction headquarters at Werda continued to press for a speedy completion of the construction work. It was believed improbable that the employment of convicts would considerably speed up the rate of construction work. During the reported period a total of 797 workers and employees were working on the project. So-called black personnel, concreting and underground construction workers, were still in short supply. The same applied to excavators, locomotives. The Allstedt construction project was a problem child of Ing.-Tiefbau at Brandenburg. Although this firm spent 10,000 DEM per month on efforts to hire additional construction workers, especially for the Allstedt project, these efforts had hardly any results. The number of workers leaving the construction site continued to be higher than the number of newly recruited workers.
- It was learned that the prisoners employed at Allstedt were mainly political prisoners. Minutes of a work conference held at the airfield on 2 August 1955 were obtained.

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☐ Comment. Difficulties experienced in the construction of Allstedt airfield have been reported previously. It appears that these difficulties have not yet been overcome.

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The conference was attended by 54 persons. At the beginning of the conference, VP Unterkommissar Fensterhauser informed the conference on the attitude to be taken by workers toward the convicts employed. He stated that only personnel charged with supervisory functions were to enter the restricted area, marked by red flags. Every contact and conversation between workers and convicts was to be avoided, and all contacts were to be limited to official functions. Each of the employees attending the conference had to state in writing that he had been informed on all rules in force concerning the treatment of convicts employed at the airfield. No worker was allowed to enter the restricted area where convicts were employed. The camp of the convicts was surrounded by wire fence with a second wire fence running parallel to the former fence at a distance of 5 meters. Everyone was warned that personnel entering the strip between the two fences would be fired upon.

A lively discussion took place on social welfare questions, such as the poor quality of goods furnished by the HO (state-owned shop), shortcomings in the issuance of meals etc. Comrade Buley stated that the BGL (shop trade union management) had done everything in its power to remedy the situation. The efforts had remained, however, without result. It was promised that after the next pay day a mobile textile shop would come to the construction site on pay days. It was also stated that facilities to serve workers evening meals were being given consideration.

After these discussions, Comrade Tans opened the work conference proper. The minutes of the last conference were read and the execution of the measure resolved at the preceding conference were discussed. It was pointed out that construction work continued to be delayed by rain falls. Rails, ties and nails, which are urgently needed arrived on 2 days; their shipment had to be suspended, however, since roads were impassable due to heavy rainfalls.

It was stated that excavation work had been seriously delayed by the rainy weather and that the soil on the construction site was soaked. In agreement with the Special Construction Staff it was arranged that a 50 to 60 cm-layer of gravel was to be applied in soaked spots as a foundation. Effective following Thursday, only convicts will be employed on the construction of the runway. These convicts will work in two shifts from 0500 to 2000. Between 2000 and 0500, work will be done by civilian laborers working two shifts. The details of women and girls will be withdrawn. The girls will be employed in the billeting area for clearing up work and road construction (bottoming). The details of girls will be supervised by Comrade Tans.

It was stated that work in the area of the construction yard had not been seriously affected by continued rainfalls. A pump was urgently required for draining purposes in this area. This pump had been requisitioned from Brandenburg. Track construction work had hardly been affected by rain and had progressed as far as the construction site. Track construction work continued smoothly. Construction work on the third " " progressed so far that work on the installation of timber required for the construction of the " " arrive in about a fortnight.

The concreting of the walls of wall IV has been completed. The concrete mixing machine is to be sent for a period of 2 weeks to Moenchpfiffel. Concreting work on pumping station II is being done with the large concrete mixing machine. Plastering work at the transformer station has not yet been started because of a shortage of lime. The firm of Klein was employed on the removal of 80 meters of rock. The equipment furnished by Bauunion Naumburg will be returned at the given moment by Comrade Tans.

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The temporary water pipe line has so far functioned well. Construction work on the cantonment accommodating construction workers was suspended because the camp for the convicts had to be erected first. The basement of the kitchen building will be drained soon. It has not yet been possible to obtain the binding joists for temporary building No. 4 and No. 6. Work on the convict camp was completed except for minor details. The so-called "Pirschhaeuschen" was made available to the VP. A circular pump will have to be installed in the water container which has a capacity of 500 cubic meters. Comrade Kubicki will be in charge of this work. Two railroad crossing points will be required for the railroad track in the area. Efforts will be made to obtain the crossing points. It was arranged that the erector scheduled to install the pump was to the construction site on Monday.

Ing. Bauch stated that of the eight tractors available at the construction site only four were still usable. It will be necessary to withdraw the remaining four caterpillars in the near future because of necessary repair work. The tracks, furnished for these caterpillars, are porous and absolutely inadequate.

Comrade Daude will check each day on the quality of work performed on the construction site. He stated that on 27 July of the drainage pipes delivered 70 were damaged. Complaints were made that the report of this deficiency had not been forwarded. It was also stated that the Gebauer brigade of carpenters had performed planking work so poorly that the work had to be done over again at the expense of the workers involved.

Head lamps for locomotives are not yet available. The lamps furnished by Brandenburg proved unusable. New orders for lamps were placed without delay because otherwise locomotives will be unable to operate at night. It was also stated that wooden carports, needed as supports for excavators were to be built at the workshop.

A contract for socialist competitions was concluded by the transportation division. Further such contracts were not yet concluded for the time being.

Safety of work matters are dealt with by Comrade Tushen. It was stated that all foremen had been informed about the measures for preventing accidents in the preceding week. It was stated that vigilance on the construction site leaves much to be desired. Greater care should be taken in the prevention of thefts of materials. The VP unit at the field asked for the setting up of an emergency generator. The generator will be served by the VP. Comrade Bauch was ordered to supply the equipment required.

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